

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183245

USOECN, EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS:ESTC, COCOM, UK, RO, IT

SUBJECT: UK EQUIPMENT FOR ASSEMBLY OF POWER TRANSISTORS TO
ROMANIA--(SOLIDEV CASE)--IL 1355

REF: PARIS 22197 - NOTAL

1. ON APRIL 6, UK PRESENTED EXCEPTION REQUEST TO COCOM TO
PERMIT UK EXPORT SECOND HAND EQUIPMENT FOR ASSEMBLY OF POWER
TRANSISTORS VALUED AT DOLS 145,450 TO ROMANIA. THE EQUIPMENT
WAS TO COME FROM A US SUBSIDIARY FIRM WHICH IS LIQUIDATING
ITS PLANT IN THE UK, THE SOLIDEV INTERNATIONAL SALES CORP.
THE REQUEST WAS MADE ON AN URGENCY BASIS SINCE THE EQUIPMENT
HAD TO BE SHIPPED BY APRIL 25.

2. ON APRIL 19, WHEN VIEWS ON THE CASE WERE DUE IN COCOM,
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THE ITALIAN DELEGATE RESERVED HIS POSITION. (THE USDEL ALSO
RESERVED HIS POSITION BECAUSE US LICENSING ACTION WAS
REQUIRED FOR PART OF THE EQUIPMENT TO COME FROM THE US; THE
US SUBSEQUENTLY LIFTED ITS RESERVE BUT OBJECTED TO PART OF
THE EQUIPMENT.) IN COCOM ON APRIL 26 THE ITALIAN DELEGATE
CONTINUED HIS RESERVE. ON MAY 4 THE ITALIAN DELEGATE
PRESENTED QUESTIONS ON THE CASE. THE UNITED KINGDOM DELE-

GATE REPLIED ON JULY 4. SINCE THAT TIME THE ITALIAN DELEGATE HAS CONTINUED TO RESERVE HIS POSITION, MOST RECENTLY ON JULY 28 AND, REPORTEDLY, AGAIN ON AUGUST 4.

3. MEANWHILE THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES FROM THE SOLIDDEV FIRM AND REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE TO SECURE A LIFTING OF THE ITALIAN RESERVE. WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES ON THE MATTER. IN ITS LATEST APPROACH ON AUGUST 4 THE SOLIDDEV FIRM INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE ITALIANS HAD AGAIN RESERVED THEIR POSITION IN COCOM AND STATED THEY COULD NOT HAVE A POSITION BEFORE SEPTEMBER 4. THE FIRM WAS CONSIDERING APPROACHING OUR EMBASSY IN ROME FOR ASSISTANCE. THEY NEED THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS SALE TO MEET A FINANCIAL OBLIGATION COMING DUE AUGUST 20.

4. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE ITALIANS ARE HOLDING UP

APPROVAL OF THIS CASE AS PRESSURE TO SECURE US APPROVAL OF THEIR OWN CASES, IN PARTICULAR MOS CIRCUIT TECHNOLOGY AND LARGE MACHINE TOOLS TO ROMANIA (COCOM DOCS (77) 140 AND (77) 50).

5. EMBASSY ROME AND USDEL (PARIS) ARE REQUESTED TO APPROACH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND ITALIAN DELEGATE TO COCOM, RESPECTIVELY, TO SEE HOW CONFIDENTIAL

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WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN RESOLVING QUESTIONS ITALIANS STILL HAVE ON SOLIDDEV CASE. FYI AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE ARE NO UNANSWERED ITALIAN QUESTIONS ON THIS CASE BUT WE WISH TO MAKE POINT IN THIS WAY THAT DELAY CAN ONLY BE JUSTIFIED BY TIME REQUIRED TO REVIEW STRATEGIC RAMIFICATION OF PROPOSED SALE. END FYI. EMB REP, OR USDEL SHOULD ALSO REASSURE ITALIANS THAT WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO EXPEDITE US ACTION ON THEIR CASES. WE RECENTLY SENT A MESSAGE ON THE MOS CIRCUIT TECHNOLOGY WHICH, WHILE OBJECTING TO THE REVISED CASE AS SUBMITTED, GAVE GUIDELINES AS TO WHAT FURTHER REVISIONS WE FELT WERE NEEDED TO PERMIT APPROVAL (STATE 181329). ON THE MACHINE TOOL CASE WE CONVENED AN INTER-AGENCY MEETING AT THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL IN JULY AND ARE CURRENTLY EXAMINING SEVERAL NEW IDEAS DESIGNED TO SEE IF WE COULD APPROVE SOME OR ALL OF THE ITALIAN CASE.

6. FOR USDEL: IN REPLY TO UK INQUIRY (PARIS 21283) USDEL MAY STATE THAT PACIFIC WESTERN PROBER WITHDRAWN FROM CASE BY US FIRM SOME TIME IN MAY AND US RESERVE NO LONGER APPLICABLE.

7. CONGRESSMAN ROGERS HAS ASKED TO SEE STATE DEPARTMENT
REP AUGUST 5 AT 1100 ON THIS CASE. REQUEST ADDRESSEES
TELEPHONE ROOT, EWT, EXTENSION 20964 IF THERE ARE ANY
DEVELOPMENTS BY THEN. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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